



RANDOM OBSERVATIONS FROM SONOMA COUNTY

In scanning western publications concerned with bird observations I have been struck by the fact that Sonoma County records have been rather lightly reported. For two years I have noted personal sight observations within the county and find there much to claim the interest of an ornithologist. From the list of 197 species that I have observed in Sonoma County during that time, I present some of the more outstanding observations to serve as an indication of the wealth of birding the area affords.

White-tailed Kite. A common resident in the region southwest of Santa Rosa. As many as nine have been seen at one time. Also noted regularly along the river lowlands near Healdsburg.

Osprey. Occupied a nest below Duncan Mills on the Russian River during the 1951 season. Commonly noted along the coast north of Fort Ross.

Pigeon Hawk. I have noted this species in each of the past two winters. The date of September 27, 1951 seems to be an early one.

Mountain Quail. This species has been noticed in the southern part of the county on a hill that overlooks San Francisco Bay in Sect. 13-T6N-R6W. This may well be the present southernmost station in the range of this north-coast form. It occurs in many localities throughout the higher levels of the county.

Red Knot. Four noted to good advantage by four observers at Bodega Bay on November 12, 1950.

Screech Owl. Seem to be particularly vulnerable to traffic fatalities. At least one such death occurred when the bird ran into the car instead of the car into it.

Pileated Woodpecker. Regular residents in the timbered ridges of the county.

Mockingbird. This species has wintered for the past two years near our home in Santa Rosa. One remained as late as May 18 in 1951.

Starling. Two were seen in 1950 on December 24 near the junction of Sears Point and Lakeville Roads. On December 2, 1951 several were seen among blackbirds near Cunningham. On December 22 and again on the 24th, 1951 a flock of approximately 1000 individuals was seen near the Old Adobe Road on the ranch of the Ponini Brothers. This is the first sizable concentration of this species that I know of within the state.

Yellow-breasted Chat. This is a common summer resident species in suitable habitat in the vicinity of Santa Rosa.

Red Crossbill. A flock of about twenty birds was noted on December 17, 1950 as they fed on Douglas fir cones along the Willow Creek Road.

Vesper Sparrow. One was seen on October 12, 1950 on the Coleman Valley Road, one mile east of California Highway No. 1.

Bell Sparrow. Common residents in suitable cover along the east border of the county.

Slate-colored Junco. Two individuals have been noted daily in our yard in Santa Rosa since December 15 to date, December 28, 1951.

Harris Sparrow. One immature was seen at very close range among a flock of White-crowned Sparrows just north of San Antonio Creek on U. S. Highway 101 on February 1, 1950.

— Gordon L. Bolander, Santa Rosa, Calif.

FEBRUARY - BERKELEY AQUATIC PARK - TRIP

The ever increasing popularity of Berkeley Aquatic Park as a birding spot was evidenced by the fact that 35 members and friends took part in the field trip February 23rd in spite of a cold drizzle. Several hundred sandpipers were seen feeding along the west side of the lake. A Red-throated Loon that was loafing by the feeding station afforded excellent opportunity for study by the group. A side trip out onto the Berkeley pier provided a view of numerous Canvas-back and Scaup Ducks. The following 41 species were observed:

Red-throated loon; horned, eared, western and pied-billed grebe; Calif. brown pelican; double-cr. cormorant; Amer. egret; black-cr. night heron; mallard; pintail; shoveller; canvas-back; lesser scaup; Amer. golden-eye; buffle-head; surf scoter; ruddy duck; sparrow hawk; coot; kildeer; Hudsonian curlew; willet; least and western sandpiper; marbled godwit; sanderling; glaucous-wg., western, herring, Calif., ring-bl., short-bl. and Bonaparte gull; Forster tern; mourning dove; black phoebe; robin; meadowlark; Nuttall and song sparrow.

At the conclusion of the trip the group met at the Arthur Myers' for coffee and dessert which was very welcome after a rather chilling day in the field.

—Harold G. Peterson, Leader and Historian

NEW EXCHANGE — Bulletin of Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, February 1952, "Some interesting records for the South Bay Area" by Dr. Charles Sibley. "The history of the American Egret is a lesson on the value of bird protection. Before 1880 egrets were common in the San Francisco Bay region . . . not a single American Egret was observed in the South Bay from 1880 to 1928 . . . since then they have increased rapidly and now are the most abundant member of the heron family in the area . . . The Audubon Society and the American Ornithologists' Union were instrumental in 1900 in the passage of the Lacey Bill, which prohibits the traffic in the plumage of wild North American birds."

MAGAZINE EDITORIAL—Natural History February 1952, "Cut or Let Grow?" A statement from the U. S. Forest Service and some editorial comments on an important public issue . . . In this age of deficit spending and synthetic substitutes, should we adopt a speeding up policy of chop, saw, and be wealthy? Or should we cherish some of our National Forests for aesthetic value and their worth to future generations?" An informative, revealing and provocative article. Read it and express your convictions to the editor.

MARCH - RODEO LAGOON - TRIP

Although the day was cold and cloudy, some forty members and guests turned out for the Rodeo Lagoon Trip on March 9. After parking at the head of the canyon, the group divided with each party taking a side of the canyon. Excellent views were had of cinnamon teal, Wilson snipe, Heerman gulls, Allen hummingbirds, marsh wrens and yellow-throats.

The following 62 species were observed:

Red-throated loon; horned, eared, western and pied-billed grebe; Calif. brown pelican; double-cr. and Brandt cormorant; great blue and black-cr. night heron; mallard; cinnamon teal; canvas-back; buffle-head; white-winged and surf scoter; ruddy duck; red-breasted merganser; t. vulture; red-tl., marsh, and sparrow hawk; coot; killdeer; Wilson snipe; glaucous-wg., western, herring Calif., short-bl. and Heerman gull; Allen hummingbird; red-sh. flicker; downy woodpecker; black phoebe; raven; crow; chestnut-bk. chickadee; bush-tit; wren-tit; winter and marsh wren; robin; hermit thrush; west. bluebird; ruby-cr. kinglet; Amer. pipit; Audubon warbler; yellow-throat; meadowlark; red-wg. and Brewer blackbird; cowbird; house finch; desser (gr.-bk.) goldfinch; spotted and brown towhee; savannah sparrow; Ore. junco; white-cr., golden-cr. and song sparrow.

—Ken Schultz, Leader and Historian

ACCOMODATIONS for Yosemite Trip may be had at El Portal Motor Inn, 18 miles from Valley (P.O. Incline) Write at once.

CONDENSED TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1951

FINANCIAL STATEMENT—

Balance on hand January 1, 1951.....	\$ 2,016.02
Receipts in 1951	3,212.74
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	\$ 5,228.76
Expenditures in 1951	2,284.30
Balance in commercial account January 1, 1952.....	2,944.46
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	\$ 5,228.76

TOTAL ASSETS—

Commercial account	\$ 2,944.46
Savings account	69.35
U. S. Treasury bond	370.00
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	\$ 3,383.81

MEMBERSHIP—

Membership in force December 31, 1950	419
Membership in force December 31, 1951.....	433

Signed: Ivander MacIver, Treasurer

Signed: Harold G. Peterson, Auditor

January 14, 1952

APRIL MEETING ON THE THIRD THURSDAY

The 415th meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society Inc., will be held in the Commissioners' Room of the San Francisco Public Library Civic Center, on April 17, at 7:30 p. m. **NOTE CHANGE TO THIRD THURSDAY!** After the business meeting, Mr. Albert J. Wool, of the Santa Clara Audubon Society, will show his color film, "Coast Range Wildlife". The public is invited. No-host dinner at the Mayflower restaurant, 1018 Market Street, near Sixth—about three blocks from the library.

—Dorothy Dean Scott, Program Chairman.

APRIL ALAMEDA TRIP

On Saturday, April 19, to Bay Farm Island, Alameda. This should be about the best time of the spring for the shore birds. Meet at Lincoln Park at 9:00. From San Francisco take "O" bus at 8:20 and get off at Santa Clara and High Streets; from the East Bay take 51 or 52 bus. Leader, Harold Peterson, LO. 8-7534. Bring lunch if desired, and interested friends.

PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT TRIP

On April 26 and 27. Here is a chance to visit a spectacular National Monument and see some unusual birds too. Last year the list included poor-will, canyon and rock wrens, and Bell sparrow. This will be a joint trip with the Natural Science Section of the Sierra Club. Cabins and meals not available at the Monument. For those who prefer not to camp, accommodations are at King City and Hollister. Driving distance from Oakland about 120 miles. On Saturday there will be a trip to the Old Caves Trail at 8:30. Both trips will start at the Monument headquarters. Leader, Harry Adamson, Lafayette 2164. Bring camping equipment (the night is apt to be chilly), and food for 4 meals.

MAY MCCOY RANCH TRIP

On Sunday, May 4, to the McCoy Ranch and Arroyo Mocho south of Livermore. This is a good place to see the phainopepla and other birds of the inner coast range such as western kingbird and yellow-billed magpie. From San Francisco take 7:40 "E" train to the end of the line at the Hotel Claremont, Berkeley. Meet here at 8:15 and proceed to Livermore by private car; meet at the flagpole on First Street at 9:15, then go south on S. Livermore Ave., Telsa Road and Mines Road to the McCoy Ranch. Leader, Carl Carson, OL-2-2585. Bring lunch and interested friends.

—C. Laurence Curl, Field Trip Chairman

NATURAL HISTORY LECTURE—April 13, Sunday, 3:00 p. m. Brazilian Room—Tilden Regional Park. "Tree Breeding" by Dr. N. Mirov, California Forest Experiment Station. ¼

IN MEMORIAM — Professor Paul Marhenke, a member since 1948.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, Inc.

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds Branch of National Audubon Society

President...Mr. Vaughan MacCaughey.....726 Cragmont Ave., Berkeley 8, LA. 4-3770
Cor. Sec. ... Mr. Edward A. Mayers....2695 Greenwich St., San Francisco 23, WE. 1-2447
Treasurer...Miss Ivander MacIver.....2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 4, AS. 3-8398
Editor..... Miss Minnie H. Young.....2726 Prince Street, Berkeley 5, HU. 3-3180

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p. m.

Joint Membership, Local & National \$5.00 per Year, includes Audubon Magazine
Local dues only, \$1.50 per year